

On March 15, the lobbyists also met with staff on the Hill to seek intervention from the White House and help from Interior. They met with staff from Rep. Vento's office who, according to Kitto, said that Vento would "personally place a call to Secretary Babbitt, at the appropriate time, to express his concerns"¹⁸⁷ about the Hudson matter. But Vento and his staff said they do not recall Vento's ever contacting – or ever being asked to contact – any person at the White House or DOI, including Secretary Babbitt. Vento and his staff also did not recall ever informing Kitto or anyone that Vento would personally contact Secretary Babbitt. In a memo describing these efforts, Kitto said the lobbyists also met with staff from the offices of both Sen. Robert Kerrey (D-Neb.) and Sen. Daschle, who informed the lobbyists that their respective senators "will also communicate with the White House about this issue."¹⁸⁸ Kitto also was close personal friends with Kerrey's chief of staff, Paul Johnson, and Kitto thought that he probably requested that Kerrey communicate with Leon Panetta, or someone at the White House, about the Hudson matter at this time. Members of both senators' staffs who were interviewed denied making any such comments to Kitto.

Kitto testified that they wanted the White House and Congress to intervene to ensure that DOI would "look at the economic data," and that the ultimate objective in making these contacts was not to get DOI to deny the application, but just "to get the Department of Interior to look at the data" because "[t]hey refused to accept it from us."¹⁸⁹ This testimony is at odds with the fact that the opponent tribes – at least the 11 tribes in Minnesota, along with MIGA – had failed until

¹⁸⁷Memo from Larry Kitto and Thomas Corcoran to Lewis Taylor, March 27, 1995.

¹⁸⁸*Id.*

¹⁸⁹Kitto *Four Feathers* Dep., April 17, 1997, at 224-26, 272.